

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten abstract:

B1 -- An electron emitter includes a coating layer of a mixture of carbon nanotubes and ~~alkali-earth~~ alkaline-earth metal oxides on an electrically conducting structure. The preferred carbon nanotubes are those having a diameter less than about 200 nm. A substantial portion of electron emission is liberated from the carbon nanotubes, thus lessening the requirement on the ~~alkali-earth~~ alkaline-earth oxides. Such an electron emitter is advantageously used in gas discharge devices to increase the energy efficiency thereof. --